

Comment on FCC MM Docket 99-25

This public comment is in favor of the development of a Low Power FM (LPFM) Radio licensing structure allowing local community radio station to operate at 100 watts. FM Radio today is a medium controlled by large corporations who through their wealth have taken over many of the FM radio station licenses and who promote homogeneous music to the masses. At the same time these large corporate mammoths do not necessarily promote or provide local news and views held by the community unless they can “make a buck” by sponsoring an event. What about the news, events, politics, and general public information concerning small towns whose citizens have no choice but to listen to the corporate FM stations since they are the only choices from which to choose? Many of these smaller towns fall outside of the limited informational scope of the large corporate radio stations but are still subject to their broadcasts.

Hence there is a demand for local radio stations to fully represent all of the views of a town no matter how small, a place to discuss politics, promote local music, and disseminate information of various types. Low Power FM is one answer. A 30-100 watt radio station can cover a whole community depending on the topography and town size. This is exemplified in the current micro radio movement where citizens have taken it upon themselves to distribute information to the masses through use of the public airwaves. These stations when properly established don't harm other radio transmissions or aircraft communications.

Here is a simple example. San Marcos, Texas is a small town in central Texas that is 20 miles South of Austin and 45 miles North of San Antonio. A person from San Marcos can only receive FM transmissions from radio stations centered in the two large cities (Austin/San Antonio) leaving San Marcos with no FM station concerned with the town. Mr. Joseph Ptak and friends solved the lack of local radio presence through the establishment of KIND Radio 105.9 and 103.9. KIND radio is a non-commercial radio station operating at 30 watts. The station focuses on the current events of San Marcos from politics to music etc... Many local political candidates have used the radio station as a means to promote their political platforms, something the large corporate radio stations would not do for such a small town. KIND radio was also used by the San Marcos Police Department to provide up to date emergency information (shelter locations, road closings etc..) during a tremendous flood that engulfed the town. The FM radio stations from Austin and San Antonio did not provide any information because they are not concerned with the town. KIND radio provided valuable information and saved lives while the radio stations based in San Antonio and Austin churned out self centered information.

As this example shows the development of a LPFM licensing structure will allow people to have access to information that may not be available otherwise. LPFM will allow people to talk to each other bypassing the self centered corporate filters located in the larger populated areas. Simply let the people speak by establishing a licensing structure for station operating at 100 watts of power.

Sincerely,

Dan Bettinger